

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A conjugate comprising

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) a single branched poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of about 40 kDa;

wherein the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) group by a member selected from the group consisting of: (1) cysteine 110; ~~and (2) cysteine 117; (3) cysteine 110 and cysteine 117~~ of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and mixtures thereof.

23. (currently amended) A conjugate comprising a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and a single branched poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of about 40 kDa, produced by a process comprising reacting a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 with activated ~~(polyethylene) glycol~~ poly(ethylene glycol) under conditions such that said ~~(polyethylene) glycol~~ poly(ethylene glycol) is chemically bound to said polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 by a thiol groups group selected from the group consisting of: (1) the thiol group of cysteine 110 and (2) the thiol group of cysteine 117 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and mixtures thereof.

24. (previously presented) A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 22 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. (new) A composition comprising a mixture of

(A) a conjugate comprising

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) a single branched poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of about 40 kDa,;

wherein the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) group by cysteine 110 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(B) a conjugate comprising

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) a single branched poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of about 40 kDa,;

wherein the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) group by cysteine 117 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.